



FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS™

Conserving - Restoring - Educating Through Fly Fishing

215 East Lewis • Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406) 222-9369 • Fax: (406) 222-5823



EXHIBIT 26
DATE 4.3.07
SB 78

April 3, 2007

RE: Testimony to the Montana House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee regarding Bill 78.

The Federation of Fly Fishers represents our many members in Montana who vote, and tens of thousands of fly anglers across the country that visit our state to access our fisheries. Recreation and angling are important contributors to our economy. This opportunity to fish and float on Montana's waters is a right that is appreciated by us all. We view this bill as a balance of compromise that complements Montana Stream Access Law and minimizes conflict in accessing our streams at bridges. It represents a reasonable and fair bill that protects the rights of property owners and recreationists. SB78 is designed to solve the current litigation problems related to bridge access, not increase them. Maintaining public access to public waters is important – individuals should not have the right to exclude others from using any property designated as public property. Successful relationships between landowners, agency officials and the public exist to fulfill many goals. This bill will facilitate healthy relationships between these groups, and uphold our Constitutional right to access streams.